



# “PCS BRIGHT SPOTS”

*A Technical Assistance Unit Newsletter*



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Volume 9



*“If we focus our anti-crime resources and foster working partnerships between citizens, law enforcement, supervision, treatment, and other government agencies — we stand the best chance of reducing crime overall.”*

**Kathleen Kennedy Townsend**  
*Lt. Governor*

## Nearly 500 Participants Attend HotSpots Summits

*By Glen Plutschak, Administrator, PCS-TAU*

Nearly 500 HotSpot Community Policing/ Community Supervision (CP/CS) team members and supervisors attended four training summits held in Easton, Bowie, Frederick and Baltimore during the month of March. Other attendees included: prosecutors, detention center staff, community treatment staff, HotSpot lead coordinators, and District of Columbia probation staff. Each summit featured a keynote speaker from the Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR) who shared information on current substance abuse trends and drug use patterns for communities throughout the State.

HotSpot teams were given an opportunity to network and share best practices as well as discuss strategies to improve overall HotSpot team performance. Best practices for CP/CS teams and supervisory Problem-Solving Teams (PSTs) are being compiled and distributed to all team members for future use.

Numerous workshops were offered in topics such as: *Effective Community Supervision and Treatment of Drug Offenders, Introduction to Crime Mapping, Victims' Rights, Victim Assistance, Gangs and Gang Violence, Understanding and Combating Underage Drinking, Community Resources for Ex-Offenders and Prisoners, Nuisance Abatement, Faith Partnerships, Juvenile*

## *Mentoring, and Seamless Offender Re-Entry.*

Overall evaluations of summit program content, usefulness and quality were extremely positive. Each participant was also given the opportunity to receive training credits from the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions.

The Technical Assistance Unit thanks all who attended, especially each guest speaker and volunteer facilitator who made the summits a great success.



Aaron Kahn, PCS-TAU facilitates a networking exercise at the Western HotSpot Summit.

## Denton HotSpot Celebrates

*By MaryLou Plutschak, Assistant Regional Administrator, Division of Parole and Probation*

Over 100 people attended the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Denton HotSpots Community Potluck Dinner held at Lockerman Middle School on February 20, 2002. Attendees included parents, children, teachers, police officers, and representatives of local service organizations. This event provided an opportunity for community members to enjoy each other's company as well as a delicious meal.

Teen Center students and the Helping Hands Neighborhood Association presented a fabulous fashion show, as well as essays on “What Teen Center Means to Me” and a special reading of “A World Without Blacks.” Presentations and booths included “Dads All

Deserve Support” (D.A.D.S.), Caroline County Parks and Recreation, the Caroline County Health Department Prevention Office, the Caroline County Board of Elections, the Denton Police Department and the Caroline County Library. Several speakers, including John Tewey from the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention, commended the community for the event and for their achievement of HotSpot goals.

Additional exhibitors were the Reality Program of Caroline County, the Clover Cultural Center, Caroline County 911, Chesapeake College and the Maryland 4-H Youth Club. As a finale, there was a drawing for youth and adult door prizes donated by local businesses.



Everyone enjoyed the buffet line at the Denton HotSpots community potluck dinner!

## **REALITY USA, an Alternative Sentencing Option**

*By J. Terry Ober, President and National Coordinator, REALITY USA*

REALITY USA is a prevention education program for youthful abusers of drugs and/or alcohol between the ages of 14 and 21. The program provides an alternative sentencing or diversion program included as part of the offender's probation by either the judge or the Department of Juvenile Justice. Offenders are required to meet on four consecutive Friday nights from 5:45 PM until 9:15 PM. REALITY USA educates students on the long and short-term effects of tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, heroin and ecstasy. They learn how these drugs effect not only the users, but also their families and their communities.

Instructors for REALITY include law enforcement and community volunteers. Four different locations are used as classrooms to provide students with "real life" experiences related to drugs and alcohol. The first night is held in a law enforcement facility, the second in a hospital, the third in a courtroom and the fourth and final night is held in a detention center facility. The REALITY program’s goal is to provide students with the opportunity to make better choices and decisions. We hope the offenders leave the program and become productive members of their communities.

REALITY USA is a non-profit organization that oversees the instruction, training and contact with the local, county and state agencies that deal with youthful offenders. Parents may refer their children to the program without an arrest. There is a student fee that allows the REALITY program to continue without cost to taxpayers. Several DJJ agents on HotSpot teams refer juveniles to REALITY USA and are pleased with the services provided. “I have found REALITY USA to be an effective alternative for the first time offender,” states Mark Masden of the Princess Anne team. *For more information visit the website: [www.realityusa.org](http://www.realityusa.org) or call toll free 866-758-3004.*

## **HotSpot Planning Grants**

*By Terri Robinson, Regional Coordinator/ Training Manager, PCS-TAU*

The Technical Assistance Unit is working with eight communities that were awarded HotSpot planning grants from the Governor’s Office of Crime Control & Prevention. Over the course of 18 months, each community will receive \$20,000 to create a comprehensive strategic/master plan for their community. The goal of this planning process is to develop and grow partnerships among residents, local government, criminal justice agencies, social change organizations, educational entities, health care providers, faith-based organizations, and the business

community to create a strategy that is realistic and relevant for their community.

Once completed, the strategic/master plan can be used by the communities to apply for funding for implementation from the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention and the Governor's Office of Children, Youth & Families. Potentially, each planning grant community could be a future HotSpot, Neighborhood Initiative, and/or Youth Strategy community. The HotSpot planning communities are Baltimore City – BayBrook, Howard County – Oakland Mills, Montgomery County – Hewitt Ave./Bel Pre, Prince George's County – Town of Fairmount Heights, Charles County – The Meadows, St. Mary's County – California, Caroline County – Town of Ridgely, and Cecil County – Lakeside Park. *For more information contact Terri Robinson at 410-295-1287.*

### **AIDS Awareness Training in Baltimore City**

*By Jaki Westmoreland, Community Liaison, PCS-TAU, and Terri Robinson, Regional Coordinator/ Training Manager, PCS-TAU*

In the fall of 2001, Lieutenant Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend announced her support for Maryland PUSH (Partners United to Stop HIV). Maryland PUSH is a collaboration of state, city, and community-based efforts to help prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS in Baltimore City.

To demonstrate the state's commitment, a partnership between the Maryland AIDS Administration and the Division of Parole & Probation will provide HIV and AIDS Awareness training to the Park Heights, Western and Harlem Park HotSpot teams in Baltimore City. The initial training was held in April and included all members of the HotSpot teams including law enforcement, Department of Juvenile Justice, and Division of Parole & Probation employees. Also, all remaining PCS agents assigned to Mondawmin and Guilford Avenue offices will be trained.

Now that the HotSpot infrastructure has been trained, Maryland PUSH will work with the teams to continue to serve the HIV/AIDS population. The Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention will support this effort by working with the Technical Assistant Unit to educate and inform other teams on how to accomplish this outreach. A toll-free hotline operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide information for HIV/AIDS prevention and testing: (800) 638-6252.

### **TECHNOLOGY**

*By Aaron Kahn, Department of Juvenile Justice, PCS-TAU and Glen Plutschak, Administrator, PCS-TAU*

### **HotSpot Technology Workgroup Formed**

On April 9, 2002, a HotSpot Technology Workgroup met to discuss the development of an automated information exchange between police and probation agencies that would replace the present COSIS system. This meeting was attended by various interested parties, including, but not limited to, representatives from the TAU, Berlin Police Department, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, the Bureau of Governmental Research, and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Information Technology and Communications Division. The group's established goals were: 1) identify the key principles needed in an automated system, 2) identify information to be shared, and 3) determine the best way to share that information.

Numerous characteristics for the new system were discussed. The discussion included the need to eliminate redundant data entry, the continuation of digital photo capabilities, and the provision for the electronic transfer of

*"If you find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere."*

Frank Clark

reports, warrant information, case notes, action plans, and legal/personal offender data.

The committee has documented its findings and will be presenting the report to the Information Technology and Communications Division. The TAU will keep you updated on the progress of this important workgroup.

## TRAINING

### HotSpot CP/CS Managers' Training

The PCS-TAU will train new managers of the HotSpot CP/CS teams and managers who have never been trained on June 26 and 27. Participants will be notified individually.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*By Josh Cohen, Community Liaison, PCS-TAU*

The Proactive Community Supervision Technical Assistance Unit is proud to report that

Chestertown HotSpot co-coordinator, Susanne Hayman, was recently honored as one of five statewide honorees for the Maryland Woman of Achievement. Ms. Hayman has been a legal pioneer as Kent County's first female attorney and also as the county's first female State's Attorney. The 2nd annual Woman of Achievement Awards were sponsored by the website Maryland.com in recognition of Women's History Month. Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend presented the awards at the State House.

**NOTICE:** If you are not already doing so, please inform one of your regional PCS-TAU representatives, your supervisor, and other HotSpot team members when a meeting is cancelled. Also, if you have a cell phone and/or pager, make sure they are turned on and accessible. This saves staff members time that can be used toward other efforts within the HotSpot Initiative. For teams already doing this – thank you.

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## MARYLAND

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### Proactive Community Supervision

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